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November 15, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. *Jack for TLG*
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jonathan E. Fielding*
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **ALCOHOL COSTS REPORT**

This is to provide you with a copy of the report, *Costs of Alcohol Abuse to Los Angeles County (2003)*.

The report estimates that alcohol abuse and alcoholism cost Los Angeles County \$7.4 billion in 2003. The direct costs of alcohol abuse and alcoholism were calculated in two broad categories: health care and criminal justice. The purpose of this report is to highlight the fact that alcohol abuse strains an already overburdened public and private health care system with additional costs, and it remains our single most preventable cause of health and social problems.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

TLG:JEF:cml

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

County of Los Angeles – Department of Health Services
Public Health

Alcohol and Drug Program Administration

Costs of Alcohol Abuse to Los Angeles County (2003)

Executive Summary

An Overview of Alcohol Abuse in Los Angeles County

Alcohol Abuse is Expensive for Everyone

Alcohol abuse cost Los Angeles County an enormous amount each year in expenses for health and criminal justice expenses as well as in terms of lost productivity by its residents. This report describes the costs of alcohol abuse to Los Angeles County in dollars adjusted for the year 2003. In 2003, the costs for public and private medical treatment alone came to \$1.0 billion. The costs to the criminal justice system agencies amounted to another \$1.6 billion. In addition, lost productivity by Los Angeles County residents each year due to alcohol abuse totaled about \$4.8 billion. This included those who died, became ill, or were injured due to alcohol-related causes. Table 1 provides a summary of these costs.

Table 1. Summary of Alcohol Abuse Costs - Los Angeles County, 2003

2003 Alcohol-Related Costs	Dollar Cost Billions
Alcohol-Related Health Care	1.0
Lost Productivity to Persons Affected by Alcohol-Related Causes	4.8
Alcohol-Related Crime	1.6
Total	7.4

■ Alcohol Abuse is a Major Health and Social Problem

Alcohol abuse is a major factor to chronic disease, hospital emergency room visits, crime, premature deaths, injuries, disabilities, lost opportunities, and reduced worker productivity. According to the cost methodology developed by Harwood et al, in 2003, alcohol abuse cost the United States an estimated \$219.7 billion. As a health problem, alcohol abuse strains the already overburdened public and private health care systems. It contributes to death, injury and health problems of thousands of Los Angeles County residents and drives up the cost of their health care. Costs of criminal activity attributed to alcohol abuse are high. These costs involve the criminal justice system as well as the suffering and lost productivity of crime victims, criminal offenders themselves, and the families of both.

■ The Consequences of Alcohol Abuse

The following are facts that describe the consequences of alcohol abuse to residents of Los Angeles County:

- ❖ About 220 persons die in alcohol-related vehicle crashes each year.
- ❖ About 3,500 County residents die each year due to causes directly related to their alcohol consumption.
- ❖ Over 34,000 County residents are treated in acute care hospitals for health problems directly related to their alcohol consumption each year.

Table 2. Trend statistics on key alcohol-related indicators in Los Angeles County from 1995-2000

<i>Los Angeles County</i> <i>Alcohol-Related Indicators</i>	<i>Years</i>					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Hospital Discharges	-N/A-	31,614	32,247	34,109	33,435	34,546
Deaths	3,960	3,755	3,513	3,327	-N/A-	-N/A-
Motor Vehicle Deaths	226	215	227	190	221	240
Motor Vehicle Crashes	6,546	6,295	5,419	5,090	4,911	5,266
Motor Vehicle Injuries	10,101	9,759	8,253	7,672	7,328	7,811

Source: California State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Alcohol and Drug Indicators, 2001

Table 3. Total Alcohol-Related Health Care Costs

Alcohol-Related Health Care Service	Dollar Cost Millions
ADPA Treatment Services	54.5
ADPA Prevention Services	35.3
ADPA Drinking Driver Programs	25.8
Support*	22.6
Acute Care Hospitals	594.6
Veteran/Federal Hospitals*	62.4
Outpatient Health Care*	81.8
Nursing Homes*	29.2
Pharmaceuticals*	74.0
Other Professionals*	43.8
Total	1,024.0

*Year 2003 projections of Los Angeles County costs using Harwood's 1998 and 2000 methodology.

■ ■ Lost Productivity Due to Alcohol Abuse-Related Health Consequences

Based on Harwood's (2000) methodology, it was estimated that the cost of lost productivity attributable to alcohol abuse in Los Angeles County in 2003 was \$4.8 billion. Lost productivity accounted for 64.0 percent of the total alcohol abuse-related costs to Los Angeles County. This overwhelming cost is based on estimates of productivity losses due to alcohol abuse associated with premature deaths, foregone productivity in the workplace and the home, and lost productivity due to institutionalization, incarceration and victimization.

■ ■ Criminal Justice System Costs for Alcohol-Related Offenses

In the year 2002, the most recent year with complete arrest statistics, over 57,000 arrests were made in Los Angeles County for alcohol-related offenses such as drunk driving and violations of liquor laws. In addition, about 11,000 other arrests can be directly attributed to alcohol abuse, such as homicide, robbery, theft, burglary, and violent assaults.

The cost of alcohol abuse to the Los Angeles County criminal justice system was \$1.2 billion. Of this amount, law enforcement activities by the Sheriff's Department and police departments comprised almost \$746.5 million or 64.1 percent. Legal and adjudication costs involved in prosecuting offenders for crimes attributed to alcohol abuse came to \$227.5 million or 19.6 percent of all criminal justice costs. The costs included prosecution, public defense, courts, and other court-related activities. The cost for custody and supervision was \$190.2 million or 16.3 percent of the total crime-related cost.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: COSTS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY (2003)

Table 4. Total Direct Crime Related Costs Based on Los Angeles County Law Enforcement Costs, Legal and Adjudication Cost, and Custody and Supervision Costs for Alcohol Attributable Crimes, 2003

<i>Offense Type</i>	<i>Arrests/Dispositions</i>		<i>Causal Factor % Alcohol</i>	<i>Law Enforcement \$ Costs</i>	<i>Legal and Adjudication \$ Costs</i>	<i>Custody and Supervision \$ Costs</i>
	Number	% of Total*				
ALCOHOL ARRESTS						
Drunk - Misdemeanor	11,029	3.2	100.0	\$ 117,372,498	\$35,770,336	\$29,899,314
Liquor Laws	7,401	2.2	100.0	\$ 80,693,593	\$24,592,106	\$20,555,778
DUI – Misdemeanor	37,955	11.2	100.0	\$ 410,803,745	\$125,196,177	\$104,647,598
DUI – Felony	1,588	0.5	100.0	\$ 18,339,452	\$5,589,115	\$4,671,768
OTHER ALCOHOL-RELATED ARRESTS						
Homicide	706	0.2	30.0	\$ 2,200,734	\$670,693	\$560,612
Felonious Assault	30,859	9.1	30.0	\$ 100,133,413	\$30,516,568	\$25,507,852
Sexual Assault	702	0.2	22.5	\$ 1,650,550	\$503,020	\$420,459
Burglary	12,493	3.7	4.0	\$ 5,428,478	\$1,654,378	\$1,382,843
Robbery	6,903	2.0	3.0	\$ 2,200,734	\$670,694	\$560,612
Larceny-Theft	11,740	3.5	3.0	\$ 3,851,285	\$1,173,714	\$981,071
Motor Vehicle Theft	8,848	2.6	4.0	\$ 3,814,606	\$1,162,536	\$971,727
Subtotal						
TOTAL COSTS						

SOURCE: California Department of Justice

*There were 339,951 felony, misdemeanor, and status offense arrests in Los Angeles County in 2002.

Note: The 2003 criminal justice costs (law enforcement, legal & adjudication, custody & supervision) are estimates based on actual costs for 2000.

In addition to the total alcohol-related arrest cost of \$1.2 billion to the Los Angeles County criminal justice system, there was an estimated \$460.9 million cost to victims of alcohol-related crimes. By combining crime victims and criminal justice arrest costs, it was estimated that the total cost of alcohol-related crime to the County in 2003 was \$1.6 billion.

Conclusion – Alcohol Abuse Affects Everyone In Los Angeles County

Alcohol abuse affects everyone. As a health problem, alcohol abuse strains already overburdened public and private health care systems with additional costs. Through premature deaths, disease, disabilities and injuries, alcohol abuse harms the well being of thousands of Los Angeles County residents each year. Criminal activities tied to alcohol abuse also have tremendous negative impact on the overloaded courtrooms, jails, and probation caseloads of the criminal justice system. Most significantly, the losses, pain and suffering of thousands of residents each year cannot be fully quantified in terms of financial cost. Finally, alcohol abuse remains our single most preventable cause of health and social problems.

■ ■ References

- Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, Financial Services Division. Budget Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.
- California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. Office of Applied Research and Analysis. *Alcohol and Drug Indicators*. October 24, 2001. Sacramento, CA.
- California Department of Justice webpages, <///justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc-stats. Tables 3A, 4A and 10.
- Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). Annual Statistical Review 1998/1999. Washington, D.C.: Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, 1999.
- Harwood, H., Fountain, D., and Livermore, G. *The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the United States, 1992*. Prepared for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Rockville, MD: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1998.
- Harwood, H. *Updating Estimates of the Economic Costs of Alcohol Abuse in the United States. Estimates, Update Methods, and Data, December, 2000*. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Rockville, MD, 2000. (11 page summary from www.niaa.nih.gov/publications/economic-2000/printing.htm).
- EMT Group, Inc, 1998. *Analysis of the Economic Costs of Alcohol & Other Drug in San Diego County*: San Diego, CA: County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.
- U.S. Census Bureau. United States Department of Commerce. *United States Census 2000*. Washington, D.C.

County of Los Angeles – Department of Health Services
Public Health

Costs of Alcohol Abuse to Los Angeles County (2003)

Technical Report



Prepared by
Alcohol and Drug Program Administration
March 2004

Costs of Alcohol Abuse to Los Angeles County (2003)

Technical Report

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to estimate the economic cost of alcohol abuse and alcoholism to Los Angeles County for the year 2003. The Harwood studies (1998 and 2000) and the Analysis of the Economic Costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Abuse in San Diego County study (2002) served as the primary guidelines for the cost estimates and findings which appear in this study. Some information and findings were obtained from several California and Los Angeles County government offices. The sources for all information are identified within the study and appropriately referenced at the end. Also, a list of definitions for the terms used in this report is found on page 16. If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration Office at (626) 299-4193.

Alcohol Abuse is Expensive for Everyone

Alcohol abuse is a major factor contributing to chronic disease, hospital emergency room visits, crime, premature deaths, injuries, disabilities, lost opportunities, and reduced worker productivity. According to the cost methodology developed by Harwood et al., in 2003, alcohol abuse cost the United States an estimated \$219.7 billion. As a health problem, alcohol abuse strains the already overburdened public and private health care systems. It contributes to death, injury, and health problems of thousands of Los Angeles County residents and drives up the cost of their health care. Costs of criminal activity attributed to alcohol abuse are high. These costs involve the criminal justice system as well as the suffering and lost productivity of crime victims, criminal offenders themselves, and the families of both.

The economic cost of alcohol abuse and alcoholism to Los Angeles County each year for health and criminal justice as well as lost productivity by its residents is tremendous. This report describes the costs of alcohol abuse to Los Angeles County in dollars adjusted for the year 2003. Overall, the estimated alcohol-related cost to Los Angeles County was \$7.4 billion. Table 1 provides a summary of the overall year 2003 cost by three categories: (1) alcohol-related health care, (2) lost productivity to persons affected by alcohol-related causes, and (3) alcohol-related crime. As shown, costs for public and private health care was \$1.0 billion. Lost productivity by Los Angeles County residents each year due to alcohol abuse and alcoholism totaled \$4.8 billion or 64.0 percent of the overall cost. This includes those who died, became ill, or were injured due to alcohol-related causes. Alcohol-related costs to criminal justice system agencies amounted to another \$1.6 billion.

Table 1. Summary of Alcohol Abuse Costs - Los Angeles County, 2003

2003 Alcohol-Related Costs	Dollar Cost Billions
Alcohol-Related Health Care	1.0
Lost Productivity to Persons Affected by Alcohol-Related Causes	4.8
Alcohol-Related Crime	1.6
Total	7.4

The Consequences of Alcohol Abuse

The following facts describe several consequences of alcohol abuse to Los Angeles County residents:

- ❖ About 220 persons die in alcohol-related vehicle crashes each year.
- ❖ About 3,500 County residents die each year due to causes directly related to their alcohol consumption.
- ❖ Each year, over 34,000 County residents are treated in acute care hospitals for health problems directly related to their alcohol consumption.

Table 2. Trend statistics on key alcohol-related indicators in Los Angeles County from 1995-2000

Los Angeles County Indicator	Years					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Hospital Discharges	-N/A-	31,614	32,247	34,109	33,435	34,546
Deaths	3,960	3,755	3,513	3,327	-N/A-	-N/A-
Motor Vehicle Deaths	226	215	227	190	221	240
Motor Vehicle Crashes	6,546	6,295	5,419	5,090	4,911	5,266
Motor Vehicle Injuries	10,101	9,759	8,253	7,672	7,328	7,811

Source: California State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Alcohol and Drug Indicators, 2001

Alcohol Availability and Consumption

As of January 1, 2002, Los Angeles County had 6,528 retail outlets, such as grocery stores, drug stores, gas stations, and liquor stores, with off-premises alcohol licenses. There is one off-premises outlet for every 1,375 persons living in the County. The number of off-premises outlets in Los Angeles County is 20.5 percent of all such outlets in California. Retail outlets licensed to sell alcohol on-premises, such as bars and restaurants, totaled 8,525 or 21.6 percent of all such outlets in California. There is one on-premises outlet for every 1,000 County residents. (California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 2002)

California ranked twentieth among states in alcohol consumption for persons age 21 years and older who consumed 2.5 gallons of ethanol per capita per year. This includes 28.1 gallons of beer, 4.05 gallons of wine, and 1.78 gallons of liquor per person age 21 and above. (United States Census Bureau and DISCUS, 1999)

Tallying the Costs of Alcohol Abuse

Overall Methodology

The specific methods and calculations used to develop the costs described in this report followed the methodologies of Harwood et al. (1998, 2000) and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (2002). Direct costs of alcohol abuse were calculated in two broad categories: health care and criminal justice costs. Harwood's adjustment rates, used in all calculations in this report, took into consideration changes in population, health care spending, consumer price index, medical price index, worker compensation (wage rates), and other factors. For example, Tables 4, 5, and 13 were calculated based on the number of years that costs were projected and the annual percent change for each cost component.

Alcohol-Related Health Care

The alcohol-related health care cost was based on ten cost indicators. Most of the indicator costs represent Los Angeles County's share of national costs described in the Harwood study (1998, 2000). However, when actual Los Angeles County costs were available they were used. Table 3 shows the cost indicators for alcohol-related health care.

Table 3. Total Alcohol-Related Health Care Costs

Alcohol-Related Health Care Service	Dollar Cost Millions
ADPA Treatment Services	54.5
ADPA Prevention Services	35.3
ADPA Drinking Driver Programs	25.8
Support*	22.6
Acute Care Hospitals	594.6
Veteran/Federal Hospitals*	62.4
Outpatient Health Care*	81.8
Nursing Homes*	29.2
Pharmaceuticals*	74.0
Other Professionals*	43.8
Total	1,024.0

* Year 2003 projections of Los Angeles County costs using Harwood's 1998 and 2000 methodology.

COSTS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY (2003)

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Table 4 provides a detailed explanation of how alcohol-related health care services were calculated.

Table 4. Cost Calculations for Alcohol-Related Health Care Services

Alcohol-Related Health Care Service	Costs Calculations - Dollars	
	2002-2003 FY treatment dollars % Alcohol Problem Admissions (26,326/55,814) Subtotal	115,540,342 x .472 \$54,535,041
ADPA Prevention Services (Includes Administration)	2002-2003 FY Prevention Dollars 2002-2003 FY Administration Dollars Subtotal	
ADPA Drinking Driver Programs ¹	26,050 First Offender admissions x \$405 fee 10,721 Multiple Offender admissions x \$1,370 fee 220 Third Offender admissions x \$2,502 fee Subtotal	
Support ²	1998 U.S. training cost Adjustment rate of 5 years (5 x 3.6% = 18.0%) 1998 U.S. insurance administration cost Adjustment rate of 5 years (5 x 5.3% = 26.5%) 1998 U.S. research cost Adjustment rate of 5 years (5 x 3.5% = 17.5%) 2003 U.S. support cost Subtotal - LAC % U.S. cost (3.3%)	
Acute Care Hospitals	Alcohol-related discharges in 2000 ³ Average length of stay ⁴ = 6.2 days Number of days in 2000 Average cost per day in hospital ⁵ Subtotal	
Veteran/Federal Hospitals	LAC acute care hospital cost Veteran's Adjustment rate ⁶ = 10.5% Subtotal	
Outpatient Health Care	U.S. alcohol-related cost in 1992 Adjustment rate (11 yrs at 3.8% = 41.8%) 2003 U.S. cost Subtotal - LAC % of U.S. cost (3.3%)	
Nursing Homes	U.S. alcohol-related cost in 1992 Adjustment rate (11 yrs at 3.8% = 41.8%) 2003 U.S. cost Subtotal - LAC % of U.S. cost (3.3%)	
Pharmaceuticals	U.S. alcohol-related cost in 1992 Adjustment rate (11 yrs at 3.8% = 41.8%) 2003 U.S. cost Subtotal - LAC % of U.S. cost (3.3%)	
Other Health Professionals	U.S. alcohol-related cost in 1992 Adjustment rate (11 yrs at 3.8% = 41.8%) 2003 U.S. cost Subtotal - LAC % of U.S. cost (3.3%)	
TOTAL		

Notes:

- (1) Los Angeles County Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System, 2001-2002 Fiscal Year.
- (2) Harwood, Updating Estimates of the Economic Costs of Alcohol Abuse in the United States, p. 7 of 11, Table 3.. The average annual increase in the estimated costs of alcohol abuse reflects changes in a number of factors: national health expenditures grew an average of 6.1% annually, gross domestic product growth averaged 5.3%, adult population grew 0.9% per year, consumer prices increased by 2.5% per year on average, and worker compensation grew by an average of 3.0% annually.
- (3) California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Office of Applied Research and Analysis, Alcohol and Drug Indicators, October 24, 2001.
- (4) EMT Group, Analysis of the Economic costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Abuse in San Diego County, Prepared for County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, p. 16.
- (5) Ibid.
- (6) Henrick Harwood, Douglas Fountain, and Gina Livermore, The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the United States-1992, Report prepared by the Lewin Group for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, p. 4-24.

■ Acute Hospital Care for Alcohol Abuse

Acute care hospital costs were calculated using discharge data obtained from the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs' (SDADP) report on alcohol and drug indicators (2001).

The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) provided the hospital discharge data shown in the SDADP report. OSHPD collects inpatient discharge data from all nonfederal acute care hospitals in California. Short-term inpatient care for alcohol-related problems are provided in acute care settings such as general or specialty hospitals. There are 107 such acute care hospitals in Los Angeles County. A list of these acute care hospitals is provided at the end of this report. In 2000, there were 34,546 acute care hospital discharges with alcohol abuse diagnoses.

Veteran/federal hospitals are not included in the OSHPD discharge data. There are two veteran hospitals in Los Angeles County (Long Beach and Los Angeles). These hospitals have 237 and 953 inpatient beds, respectively. The estimated alcohol-related cost to these hospitals was \$62.4 million.

■ Lost Productivity Due to Alcohol Abuse-Related Health Consequences

It was estimated that the cost of lost productivity attributable to alcohol abuse in Los Angeles County in year 2003 was \$4.8 billion. Lost productivity is measured in terms of the wage or earning potential that a person would have achieved in the study year if not for illness associated with alcohol use and abuse or over the person's expected course of life if not for premature death attributed to alcohol use and abuse. Lost productivity accounted for 64.0 percent of the total alcohol abuse-related costs to Los Angeles County. This overwhelming cost is based on estimates of productivity losses due to alcohol abuse associated with premature deaths, foregone productivity in the workplace and the home, and lost productivity due to institutionalization, incarceration, and victimization.

Table 5 shows the three cost areas of lost productivity and how the Los Angeles County dollar amount was calculated for the year 2003.

Table 5. Cost Calculations for Alcohol-Related Lost Productivity

Area of Lost Productivity	Cost Calculations - Dollars	
Premature Alcohol-Related Deaths	1998 U.S. Cost 2003 Adjustment Rate (5 x 2.6% = 13%) Subtotal	\$36,499,000,000 <u>4,744,870,000</u> \$41,243,870,000
Alcohol-Related Illness	1998 U.S. Cost 2003 Adjustment Rate (5 x 4.0% = 20%) Subtotal	\$86,368,000,000 <u>17,273,600,000</u> \$103,641,600,000
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	1998 U.S. Cost 2003 Adjustment Rate (5 x 4.0% = 20%) Subtotal	\$1,253,000,000 <u>250,600,000</u> \$1,503,600,000
TOTAL	2003 U.S. Cost \$146,389,070,000 2003 LAC cost (LAC percent of U.S. cost (3.3%))	 \$4,830,839,310

Criminal Justice System Costs for Alcohol-Related Offenses

In the year 2002, the most recent year with complete arrest statistics, over 57,000 arrests were made in Los Angeles County for alcohol-related offenses such as drunk driving and violations of liquor laws. In addition, 11,000 other arrests (i.e. homicide, robbery, theft, burglary, and violent assaults) can be directly attributed to alcohol abuse.

As shown in Table 6, the cost of alcohol abuse to the Los Angeles County criminal justice system was \$1.2 billion. Of this amount, law enforcement activities by the Sheriff and police departments accounted for \$746.5 million or 64.1 percent. Legal and adjudication costs involved in prosecuting offenders for crimes attributed to alcohol abuse came to \$227.5 million or 19.6 percent of all criminal justice costs. These costs included prosecution, public defense, courts, and other court-related activities. The cost for custody and supervision was \$190.2 million or 16.3 percent of the total crime-related cost.

Table 6. Total Direct Crime-Related Costs Based on Los Angeles County Law Enforcement Costs, Legal and Adjudication Costs, and Custody and Supervision Costs for Alcohol Attributable Crimes, 2003

Offense Type	Arrests/Dispositions		Causal Factor % Alcohol	Law Enforcement \$ Costs	Legal and Adjudication \$ Costs	Custody and Supervision \$ Costs
	Number	% of Total*				
ALCOHOL ARRESTS						
Drunk - Misdemeanor	11,029	3.2	100.0	\$117,372,498	\$35,770,336	\$29,899,314
Liquor Laws	7,401	2.2	100.0	\$80,693,593	\$24,592,106	\$20,555,778
DUI – Misdemeanor	37,955	11.2	100.0	\$410,803,745	\$125,196,177	\$104,647,598
DUI – Felony	1,588	0.5	100.0	\$18,339,452	\$5,589,115	\$4,671,768
OTHER ALCOHOL-RELATED ARRESTS						
Homicide	706	0.2	30.0	\$2,200,734	\$670,693	\$560,612
Felonious Assault	30,859	9.1	30.0	\$100,133,413	\$30,516,568	\$25,507,852
Sexual Assault	702	0.2	22.5	\$1,650,550	\$503,020	\$420,459
Burglary	12,493	3.7	4.0	\$5,428,478	\$1,654,378	\$1,382,843
Robbery	6,903	2.0	3.0	\$2,200,734	\$670,694	\$560,612
Larceny-Theft	11,740	3.5	3.0	\$3,851,285	\$1,173,714	\$981,071
Motor Vehicle Theft	8,848	2.6	4.0	\$3,814,606	\$1,162,536	\$971,727
Subtotal				\$746,489,088	\$227,499,337	\$190,159,634
TOTAL COSTS					\$1,164,148,059	

Source: California Department of Justice

*There were 339,951 felony, misdemeanor, and status offense arrests in Los Angeles County in 2002.

Note: The 2003 criminal justice costs (law enforcement, legal & adjudication, custody & supervision) are estimates based on actual costs for 2000.

COSTS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY (2003)

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Tables 7-12 provide detailed explanations of how alcohol-related crime costs were calculated.

Table 7. Direct Crime-Related Alcohol Costs - Law Enforcement Alcohol Arrests

Law Enforcement (LE) Alcohol-Related Arrests	Costs Calculations - Dollars	
Drunk Misdemeanor Arrests	Number of drunk misdemeanor arrests	11,029
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent drunk misdemeanor of total LAC arrests	3.2%
	LE budget ²	\$3,667,890,578
	LE cost for drunk misdemeanor arrests	\$117,372,498
Liquor Law Arrests	Number of liquor law arrests	7,401
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent liquor law of total LAC arrests	2.2%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for liquor law arrests	\$80,693,593
DUI Misdemeanor Arrests	Number of DUI misdemeanor arrests	37,955
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent DUI misdemeanor of total LAC arrests	11.2%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for DUI misdemeanor arrests	\$410,803,745
DUI Felony Arrests	Number of DUI felony arrests	1,588
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent DUI felony of total LAC arrests	0.5%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for DUI felony arrests	\$18,339,452

Notes:

- (1) Data on the number of arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, and status offenses for Los Angeles County in 2002 were obtained from the California Department of Justice webpages, http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/3A.htm and http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/4A.htm.
- (2) Data on the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year total budget appropriations for law enforcement was obtained from the California Department of Justice webpage, http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/10.htm. The dollar amount was extrapolated from 1999-2000 Fiscal Year law enforcement budget appropriations.

COSTS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY (2003)

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Table 8. Direct Crime-Related Alcohol Costs - Law Enforcement Other Alcohol-Related Arrests

Law Enforcement (LE) Other Alcohol-Related Arrests		Costs Calculations - Dollars
Homicide Arrests	Number of homicide arrests	706
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent homicide of total LAC arrests	0.2%
	LE budget ²	\$3,667,890,578
	LE cost for homicide arrests	\$7,335,781
	Alcohol as a causal factor ³	30.0%
	LE costs for alcohol-related homicide arrests	\$2,200,734
Felony Assault Arrests	Number of felony assault arrests	30,859
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent felony assault of total LAC arrests	9.1%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for felony assault arrests	\$333,778,042
	Alcohol as a causal factor	30.0%
	LE costs for alcohol-related felony assault arrests	\$100,133,413
Sexual Assault Arrests	Number of sexual assault arrests	702
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent sexual assault of total LAC arrests	0.2%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for sexual assault arrests	\$7,335,781
	Alcohol as a causal factor	22.5%
	LE costs for alcohol-related sexual assault arrests	\$1,650,550
Burglary Arrests	Number of burglary arrests	12,493
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent burglary of total LAC arrests	3.7%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for burglary arrests	\$135,711,951
	Alcohol as a causal factor	4.0%
	LE costs for alcohol-related burglary arrests	\$5,428,478
Robbery Arrests	Number of robbery arrests	6,903
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent robbery of total LAC arrests	2.0%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for robbery arrests	\$73,357,812
	Alcohol as a causal factor	3.0%
	LE costs for alcohol-related robbery arrests	\$2,200,734
Larceny-Theft Arrests	Number of larceny theft arrests	11,740
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent larceny theft of total LAC arrests	3.5%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for larceny theft arrests	\$128,376,170
	Alcohol as a causal factor	3.0%
	LE costs for alcohol-related larceny theft arrests	\$3,851,285
Motor Vehicle Theft Arrests	Number of motor vehicle theft arrests	8,848
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent motor vehicle theft of total LAC arrests	2.6%
	LE budget	\$3,667,890,578
	LE costs for motor vehicle theft arrests	\$95,365,155
	Alcohol as a causal factor	4.0%
	LE costs for alcohol-related motor vehicle arrests	\$3,814,606

Notes:

Data on the number of arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, and status offenses for Los Angeles County in 2002 were obtained from the California Department of Justice webpages, </justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/3A.htm> and </justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/4A.htm>.

- (2) Data on the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year total budget appropriations for law enforcement was obtained from the California Department of Justice webpage, </justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/10.htm>.

The dollar amount was extrapolated from 1999-2000 Fiscal Year law enforcement budget appropriations.

- (3) The "Alcohol as a Causal Factor" is the percentage of crime attributable to alcohol use and abuse. The offense-specific alcohol causal factors were obtained from Analysis of the Economic Costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse in San Diego County study.

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Table 9. Direct Crime-Related Alcohol Costs - Legal and Adjudication Alcohol Arrests

Legal and Adjudication (L&A) Alcohol-Related Arrests ¹		Costs Calculations - Dollars
Drunk Misdemeanor Arrests	Number of drunk misdemeanor arrests	11,029
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent drunk misdemeanor of total LAC arrests	3.2%
	L&A budget ²	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A cost for drunk misdemeanor arrests	\$35,770,336
Liquor Law Arrests	Number of liquor law arrests	7,401
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent liquor law of total LAC arrests	2.2%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for liquor law arrests	\$24,592,106
DUI Misdemeanor Arrests	Number of DUI misdemeanor arrests	37,955
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent DUI misdemeanor of total LAC arrests	11.2%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for DUI misdemeanor arrests	\$125,196,177
DUI Felony Arrests	Number of DUI felony arrests	1,588
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent DUI felony of total LAC arrests	0.5%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for DUI felony arrests	\$5,589,115

Notes:

- (1) Data on the number of arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, and status offenses for Los Angeles County in 2002 were obtained from the California Department of Justice webpages, http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/3A.htm and http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/4A.htm.
- (2) Data on the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year total budget appropriations for law enforcement was obtained from the California Department of Justice webpage, http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/10.htm. The dollar amount was extrapolated from 1999-2000 Fiscal Year law enforcement budget appropriations.

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Table 10. Direct Crime-Related Alcohol Costs - Legal and Adjudication Other Alcohol-Related Arrests

Legal and Adjudication (L&A) Other Alcohol-Related Arrests ¹		Costs Calculations - Dollars
Homicide Arrests	Number of homicide arrests	706
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent homicide of total LAC arrests	0.2%
	L&A budget ²	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A cost for homicide arrests	\$2,235,646
	Alcohol as a causal factor ³	30.0%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related homicide arrests	\$670,693
Felonious Assault Arrests	Number of felonious assault arrests	30,859
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent felonious assault of total LAC arrests	9.1%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for felonious assault arrests	\$101,721,894
	Alcohol as a causal factor	30.0%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related felonious assault arrests	\$30,516,568
Sexual Assault Arrests	Number of sexual assault arrests	702
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent sexual assault of total LAC arrests	0.2%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for sexual assault arrests	\$2,235,646
	Alcohol as a causal factor	22.5%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related sexual assault arrests	\$503,020
Burglary Arrests	Number of burglary arrests	12,493
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent burglary of total LAC arrests	3.7%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for burglary arrests	\$41,359,451
	Alcohol as a causal factor	4.0%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related burglary arrests	\$1,654,378
Robbery Arrests	Number of robbery arrests	6,903
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent robbery of total LAC arrests	2.0%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for robbery arrests	\$22,356,460
	Alcohol as a causal factor	3.0%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related robbery arrests	\$670,694
Larceny-Theft Arrests	Number of larceny theft arrests	11,740
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent larceny theft of total LAC arrests	3.5%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for larceny theft arrests	\$39,123,805
	Alcohol as a causal factor	3.0%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related larceny theft arrests	\$1,173,714
Motor Vehicle Theft Arrests	Number of motor vehicle theft arrests	8,848
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent motor vehicle theft of total LAC arrests	2.6%
	L&A budget	\$1,117,823,009
	L&A costs for motor vehicle theft arrests	\$29,063,398
	Alcohol as a causal factor	4.0%
	L&A costs for alcohol-related motor vehicle arrests	\$1,162,536

Notes:

- (1) Data on the number of arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, and status offenses for Los Angeles County in 2002 were obtained from the California Department of Justice webpages, <http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/3A.htm> and <http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/4A.htm>.
- (2) Data on the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year total budget appropriations for law enforcement was obtained from the California Department of Justice webpage, <http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/10.htm>. The dollar amount was extrapolated from 1999-2000 Fiscal Year law enforcement budget appropriations.
- (3) The "Alcohol as a Causal Factor" is the percentage of crime attributable to alcohol use and abuse. The offense-specific alcohol causal factors were obtained from Analysis of the Economic Costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse in San Diego County study.

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Table 11. Direct Crime-Related Alcohol Costs - Custody and Supervision Alcohol Arrests

Custody and Supervision (C&S) Alcohol-Related Arrests ¹		Costs Calculations - Dollars
Drunk Misdemeanor Arrests	Number of drunk misdemeanor arrests	11,029
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent drunk misdemeanor of total LAC arrests	3.2%
	C&S budget ²	\$934,353,553
	C&S cost for drunk misdemeanor arrests	\$29,899,314
Liquor Law Arrests	Number of liquor law arrests	7,401
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent liquor law of total LAC arrests	2.2%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for liquor law arrests	\$20,555,778
DUI Misdemeanor Arrests	Number of DUI misdemeanor arrests	37,955
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent DUI misdemeanor of total LAC arrests	11.2%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for DUI misdemeanor arrests	\$104,647,598
DUI Felony Arrests	Number of DUI felony arrests	1,588
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent DUI felony of total LAC arrests	0.5%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for DUI felony arrests	\$4,671,768

Notes:

- (1) Data on the number of arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, and status offenses for Los Angeles County in 2002 were obtained from the California Department of Justice webpages, http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/3A.htm and http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/4A.htm.
- (2) Data on the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year total budget appropriations for law enforcement was obtained from the California Department of Justice webpage, http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/10.htm. The dollar amount was extrapolated from 1999-2000 Fiscal Year law enforcement budget appropriations.

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Table 12. Direct Crime-Related Alcohol Costs - Custody and Supervision Other Alcohol-Related Arrests

Custody and Supervision (C&S) Other Alcohol-Related Arrests ¹		Costs Calculations - Dollars
Homicide Arrests	Number of homicide arrests	706
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent homicide of total LAC arrests	0.2%
	C&S budget ²	\$934,353,553
	C&S cost for homicide arrests	\$1,868,707
	Alcohol as a causal factor ³	30.0%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related homicide arrests	\$560,612
Felonious Assault Arrests	Number of felonious assault arrests	30,859
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent felonious assault of total LAC arrests	9.1%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for felonious assault arrests	\$85,026,173
	Alcohol as a causal factor	30.0%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related felonious assault arrests	\$25,507,852
Sexual Assault Arrests	Number of sexual assault arrests	702
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent sexual assault of total LAC arrests	0.2%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for sexual assault arrests	\$1,868,707
	Alcohol as a causal factor	22.5%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related sexual assault arrests	\$420,459
Burglary Arrests	Number of burglary arrests	12,493
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent burglary of total LAC arrests	3.7%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for burglary arrests	\$34,571,081
	Alcohol as a causal factor	4.0%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related burglary arrests	\$1,382,843
Robbery Arrests	Number of robbery arrests	6,903
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent robbery of total LAC arrests	2.0%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for robbery arrests	\$18,687,071
	Alcohol as a causal factor	3.0%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related robbery arrests	\$560,612
Larceny-Theft Arrests	Number of larceny theft arrests	11,740
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent larceny theft of total LAC arrests	3.5%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for larceny theft arrests	\$32,702,374
	Alcohol as a causal factor	3.0%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related larceny theft arrests	\$981,071
Motor Vehicle Theft Arrests	Number of motor vehicle theft arrests	8,848
	Divided by the total LAC arrests	339,951
	Percent motor vehicle theft of total LAC arrests	2.6%
	C&S budget	\$934,353,553
	C&S costs for motor vehicle theft arrests	\$24,293,192
	Alcohol as a causal factor	4.0%
	C&S costs for alcohol-related motor vehicle arrests	\$971,727

Notes:

- (1) Data on the number of arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, and status offenses for Los Angeles County in 2002 were obtained from the California Department of Justice webpages, <http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/3A.htm> and <http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/4A.htm>.
- (2) Data on the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year total budget appropriations for law enforcement was obtained from the California Department of Justice webpage, <http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof01/19/10.htm>. The dollar amount was extrapolated from 1999-2000 Fiscal Year law enforcement budget appropriations.
- (3) The "Alcohol as a Causal Factor" is the percentage of crime attributable to alcohol use and abuse. The offense-specific alcohol causal factors were obtained from Analysis of the Economic Costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse in San Diego County study.

In addition to the total alcohol-related arrest cost of \$1.2 billion to the Los Angeles County criminal justice system, there was an estimated \$460.9 million cost to victims of alcohol-related crimes as shown in Table 13.

Table 13. Total Cost to Victims of Alcohol-Related Crimes in Los Angeles County, 2003

Cost Component	Dollars
1998 U.S. Lost Earnings due to Alcohol-Related Crime	
Lost productivity due to crime	988,000,000
Lost productivity of incarcerated person	<u>9,097,000,000</u>
1998 Total U. S. Cost	10,085,000,000
5-year adjustment (5 x 7.7% = 38.5%)	3,882,725,000
2003 Total U.S. cost	<u>13,967,725,000</u>
2003 Los Angeles County percent (3.3%) of U.S.	460,934,925

Note: Victim costs calculated using Harwood's estimates (1998, 2000).

By combining crime victims and criminal justice arrest costs, it was estimated that the total cost of alcohol-related crime to the County in 2003 was \$1.6 billion.

Conclusion – Alcohol Abuse Affects Everyone In Los Angeles County

Alcohol abuse affects everyone. As a health problem, alcohol abuse strains already overburdened public and private health care systems with additional costs. Through premature deaths, disease, disabilities, and injuries, alcohol abuse harms the well being of thousands of Los Angeles County residents each year. Criminal activities tied to alcohol abuse also have a tremendous negative impact on the overloaded courtrooms, jails, and probation caseloads of the criminal justice system. Most significantly, the losses, pain, and suffering of thousands of residents each year attributable to alcohol abuse and use cannot be fully quantified in terms of financial cost. Finally, alcohol abuse remains our single most preventable cause of health and social problems.

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ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY	
(Excludes Kaiser, State, Shriners, Long Term Care Emphasis, and Public Health Foundations)	
<p>Alhambra Hospital - Alhambra American Recovery Center Antelope Valley Hospital Medical Center Aurora Charter Oak Avalon Municipal Hospital & Clinic Barlow Hospital Bellflower Medical Center Beverly Hospital BHC Alhambra Hospital Brotman Medical Center California Hospital Medical Center Casa Colina Hospital for Rehabilitation Medicine Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Centinela Hospital Medical Center Century City Hospital Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Citrus Valley Medical Center - QV Campus City of Hope National Medical Center Coast Plaza Doctors Hospital College Hospital Community & Mission Hospitals - Huntington Park Community Hospital of Gardena Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital Del Amo Hospital Doctors Hospital of West Covina Downey Regional Medical Center Earl & Lorraine Miller Childrens Hospital East Los Angeles Doctor's Hospital Encino Tarzana Regional MC - Encino Encino Tarzana Regional MC - Tarzana Foothill Presbyterian Hospital Garfield Medical Center Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center Glendale Adventist Medical Center Glendale Memorial Hospital & Health Center Good Samaritan Hospital Granada Hills Community Hospital Greater El Monte Community Hospital Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Hollywood Community Hospital of Hollywood Huntington East Valley Hospital Huntington Memorial Hospital Kindred Hospital - Los Angeles <i>Harbor + UCLA Medical Center*</i> <i>High Desert Hospital*</i> <i>Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center*</i> <i>Olive View-UCLA Medical Center*</i> <i>Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center*</i> <i>LAC/USC Medical Center*</i> Lakewood Regional Medical Center - South Lancaster Community Hospital Las Encinas Hospital Lincoln Hospital Medical Center</p>	<p>Little Company of Mary Hospital Long Beach Memorial Medical Center Los Angeles Community Hospital Los Angeles Metropolitan Medical Center Memorial Hospital of Gardena Methodist Hospital of Southern California Midway Hospital Medical Center Mission Community Hospital - Panorama City Monrovia Community Hospital Monterey Park Hospital Motion Picture & Television Hospital Northridge Hospital Medical Center Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Sherman Oaks Orthopaedic Hospital Pacific Alliance Medical Center Pacific Hospital of Long Beach Pacifica Hospital of the Valley Pine Grove Hospital Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Providence Holy Cross Medical Center Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center Queen of Angels-Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center San Dimas Community Hospital San Gabriel Valley Medical Center San Pedro Peninsula Hospital San Vicente Hospital Santa Marta Hospital Santa Monica - UCLA Medical Center Santa Teresita Hospital Sherman Oaks Hospital & Health Center Specialty Hospital of Southern California St. Francis Medical Center St. John's Hospital and Health Center St. Luke Medical Center St. Mary Medical Center St. Vincent Medical Center Suburban Medical Center Tarzana Treatment Center Temple Community Hospital Tom Redgate Memorial Recovery Center Torrance Memorial Medical Center Tri-City Regional Medical Center UCLA Medical Center UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital USC Kenneth Norris Jr. Cancer Hospital USC University Hospital Valley Presbyterian Hospital Verdugo Hills Hospital West Hills Hospital & Medical Center White Memorial Medical Center Whittier Hospital Medical Center</p>

* Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' Hospitals

DEFINITIONS

Acute care hospital - A short-stay hospital with an average length of stay of less than 30 days. Short-term health care may be provided in a general or specialty hospital.

Alcohol-related arrest - These statistics, which are maintained by the Department of Justice, count those arrests occurring when persons are taken into custody because they are believed to have violated alcohol laws or committed other crimes where alcohol may have played a causal role in the crime. Alcohol law violations include driving under the influence, public drunkenness, and liquor law infractions.

Alcohol-related death - This includes all deaths causally linked to alcohol use and misuse. The cause of death selected for coding and tabulating data is “the underlying cause of death” which is generally defined as that, e.g., alcohol use or misuse, which initiated the sequence of events leading directly to death. Causes of death are coded according to the Tenth Revision International Classification of Diseases.

Alcohol-related hospital discharges - For the purpose of this report, alcohol-related hospital discharges apply to patients who are no longer receiving inpatient health care for an alcohol-related condition from a nonfederal acute care hospital in Los Angeles County. The source of data is the California State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Alcohol and Drug Indicators, October 24, 2001.

Alcohol-involved motor vehicle accidents - These represent all motor vehicle accidents that involved the use of alcohol. The California Highway Patrol compiles statistics on alcohol-involved accidents.

Average length of stay - The average length of stay is the average number of days a person stays as an inpatient in a health care facility over a given time period.

Criminal justice costs - These are the costs of police protection services, prosecution, adjudication, public defense, and corrections (incarceration and parole/probation).

Federal hospital - An acute healthcare facility funded and administered by a department of the United States government such as Department of Veterans Affairs.

Inpatient bed day - A day spent in an inpatient facility after being admitted for an alcohol-related illness.

Lost Productivity - The valuation of loss of expected productivity (or wage and earning potential) that a person would have achieved in the study year (for morbidity) or over the person’s expected course of life (for mortality).

Morbidity - Lost Earnings - This pertains to lost earnings due to illness, impairment, or disability from alcohol or drug abuse.

Mortality - Lifetime Earnings - This pertains to loss of lifetime earnings due to premature death from an alcohol-related illness or injuries sustained in alcohol-involved accidents and motor vehicle crashes.

Nursing Homes - Nursing homes are skilled nursing facilities whose staffs assist in the care and treatment plan of generally older patients who are sick and disabled.

Other Professionals - "Other Professionals" refer to professional caregivers, other than doctors, who provide services to treat the medical consequences of alcohol.

Outpatient health care - This pertains to ambulatory or noninpatient visits to health care facilities to treat alcohol-related conditions.

Pharmaceuticals - This pertains to drugs and medical nondurables.

Support cost - This cost relates to such support services as training, research, and insurance administration provided for alcohol and other drug-related service activities and clients.

Alcohol Availability and Consumption

Los Angeles County had 6,528 retail alcohol outlets licensed to sell alcohol for off-premises consumption (off-sale) such as grocery stores, drug stores, gas stations, and liquor stores as of January 1, 2002. This is one off-sale outlet for every 1,375 persons living in the County. The number of off-sale outlets in Los Angeles County comprised 20.5 percent of all such outlets in California. Retail alcohol outlets licensed to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption (on-sale), such as bars and restaurants totaled 8,525 or 21.6 percent of all such outlets in California. This is one on-sale outlet for every 1,000 County residents. (California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 2002)

California ranked twentieth among states in alcohol consumption among persons age 21 years and older with 2.5 gallons of ethanol consumed per capita per year. This includes 28.1 gallons of beer, 4.05 gallons of wine, and 1.78 gallons of liquor per person age 21 and above. (United States Census Bureau and DISCUS, 1999)

Tallying the Costs of Alcohol Abuse

Overall Methodology

The approach used to calculate costs in this report used the methodologies of Harwood et al. (1998, 2000) and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (2002). The direct costs of alcohol abuse were calculated in two broad categories: health care costs and criminal justice costs. The specific methods and calculations used to develop the costs described in this report are explained in an accompanying technical report prepared by the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration.

Acute Hospital Care for Alcohol Abuse

Acute care hospital costs were calculated using the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) 2000 patient discharge data. OSHPD collects inpatient discharge data from all nonfederal acute care hospitals in California. Short-term inpatient care for alcohol-related problems are provided in acute care settings such as general or specialty hospitals. There are 107 such acute care hospitals in Los Angeles County. In 2000, there were 34,546 acute care hospital discharges with alcohol diagnoses at an estimated cost of \$594.6 million.

Veteran/Federal hospitals are not included in the OSHPD discharge data. There are two veteran hospitals in Los Angeles County (Long Beach and Los Angeles). These hospitals have 237 and 953 inpatient beds, respectively. The alcohol-related cost for these hospitals (\$62.4 million) was estimated using Harwood's (2000) methodology. By combining the veteran/federal hospital's cost with the acute care hospital cost, it was estimated that the total acute care hospital system cost was \$657 million.